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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 H-02 PM-06 CIAE-00 IR-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 AID-20 USIA-12 PRS-01 SS-14 NSC-10 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2387

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 18358

SUBJECT: HOUSE INQUIRY ON US ELECTION ROLE

REF: STATE 205099

1. WHILE WE WOULD NOT POSE OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED DECLASSIFICATION OF DEPT'S LETTER OF OCT 19, WE BELIEVE THE QUESTION OF OPINION POLLS COULD BE PUT IN BETTER PERSPECTIVE. IN TRANSMITTING ITS AGREEMENT TO DECLASSIFY, DEPT MIGHT WISH TO DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. THE THREE QUESTIONS DEALING WITH POSSIBLE CANDIDATES AND ISSUES IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WERE ASKED IN NOV 1970, FULLY 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. SUBSEQUENT POLLS DID NOT SURVEY VIEWS ON CANDIDATES AND ISSUES BUT DID INCLUDE QUESTIONS ON PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE ELECTION AND OPINIONS AS TO HOW FAIR IT WOULD BE.

3. IN AN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN IMPARTIALITY TOWARD THE PRESIDENTIAL AND LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS, ALL SURVEY ACTIVITIES WERE SUSPENDED DURING THE MONTHS OF AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, AND SURVEYS WERE NOT RESUMED UNTIL THE ELECTIONS WERE COMPLETED IN OCTOBER. NO SURVEYS WERE CONDUCTED ON ANY SUBJECT AT ANY LEVEL DURING THIS PRE-ELECTION PERIOD. POLLING WAS RESUMED ON OCTOBER 6, FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. CURRENTLY SURVEYS ARE LIMITED TO PACIFICATION SUBJECTS OF A MILITARY OR ECONOMIC NATURE; POLITICAL TOPICS ARE NOT ADDRESSED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Zalben DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
E.O. AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE☑
CLASSIFIED☐

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4. THE PACIFICATION ATTITUDE ANALYSIS SYSTEM CONSTITUTES A VALUABLE PACIFICATION MANAGEMENT ASSET WHICH CONTINUES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION OTHERWISE UNAVAILABLE.
BUNKER

DECLASSIFIED